



Rogue Valley Community Press
258 A Street, #1
Ashland, Or 97520

Rogue Valley Community Press

Southern Oregon Social Justice News and Action

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SUMMER 2015

Labor Donated

Ashland Oregon commemorates

30th annual Hiroshima Nagasaki vigil

This year's theme is 'Arm in Arm, Time to Disarm.'

BY VANESSA HOUK

When an educational maze winds around the edge of the Ashland Plaza, to teach about the dangers of atomic technology as a thousand colorful origami peace cranes dance with the warm August breezes, it signals that an annual peace vigil is underway.

Every August 6 through August 9, members of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), peace activists and community members gather in the Ashland Plaza to remember the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to share the dangers of nuclear weapons and the environmental hazards of radiation contamination.

August marks the beginning of "Nuclear Free Future Month," a worldwide movement aimed to reign in nuclear energy in an effort to create a safer and healthier world. On the 70th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, WILPF will once again create a space for the community to gather together to commemorate these shared experiences and to teach the history of nuclear weapons and the impact on

local and international communities.

This year also marks 45 years since Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entered into force, in which US and other nuclear weapons states agreed to negotiate to abolish their weapons.

The theme, "Arm in arm, time to disarm" and events include films, a nuclear maze, live music and more.

Ceremonies begin at 8:00 AM on August 6th at the entrance to Lithia Park with music and speakers and at 8:15 AM (the minute the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki) there will be a moment of silence as a candle is lit in remembrance. After the ceremony the public is invited to visit the maze and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

In 1981 the city of Ashland was designated a nuclear free zone and in 1998 Ashland became a member of Mayors for Peace and joined what has become 6,127 cities in 158 countries and regions with a shared goal. "Around the world people unite to remember the human cost of atomic weapons and to visualize a world without the threat of nuclear catastrophes. They come together to listen to speakers talk about their experiences, listen to music and to learn from the past."

New this year is "Art, Music & Words", a community event to bring awareness to the two greatest threats facing our planet: nuclear weapons and climate change, and inspire us to work together to create a safer future for coming generations. The event is August 8th at 7 pm at the UCC Congregational Church, 717 Siskiyou Blvd.

The 30th annual Hiroshima Nagasaki vigil is sponsored by the Ashland branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), and many other community sponsors.



At the end of earlier vigils, sunflowers were released into Lithia creek. Photo by Candy Wooding

Vigil Schedule

Opening Ceremony - Lithia Park
August 6 - 8:00 AM

Nuclear Maze - Ashland Plaza
August 6 - 7

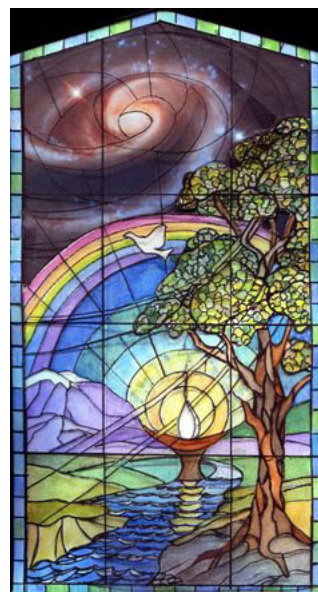
Educational display,
information and petitions.

Art, Music & Words
August 8 - 7:00 PM
UCC Congregational church
717 Siskiyou Blvd.

a community event to bring awareness to the two greatest threats facing our planet: nuclear weapons and climate change.

A *closing ceremony* which will commemorate the victims of Nagasaki will be in the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park on **August 9 at 7:00 PM**. There will be a sunflower ceremony, speakers and song.

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For more information contact Wes Brain 541-482-6988.

Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,
If you're standing along Main Street in Ashland on the 4th of July watching the parade make its way down, be sure to watch for the social justice coalitions including Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) and keep an eye out for folks wearing their bright red health care t-shirts. Be especially nice to them. They're working hard on creating a statewide Single Payer Health Care system that would give all of us better coverage without spending more money. One that would acknowledge that health care is a human right and not a privilege, and would edge for-profit insurance companies out of the picture. You might say that I have a dog in this fight.

“What insurance do you have again?”
The hospital intake worker's voice is barely discernible over the buzz in the room as my eyes were locked on the red numbers of the heart monitor that announced that my son's heart rate is dropping. It began at a healthy 150-something when we arrived and it's since been dropping down below 100--90's--80's and the doctor and nurses are yelling information back and forth of which I can't follow at all, because I am riding painful waves of contractions and willing those numbers to rise. “What insurance was that again?” I hear over the roar of everything else in that room and a decade-and-a-half later I am still haunted by the lilt of her voice.

His heart rate kept falling and the numbers dove into the 50's. By now the hospital staff was gearing up to do emergency surgery and most of the rest of what happened that night is a series of flashes, short photo stills if you will. I woke up from surgery. None of the nurses in the room would make eye contact when I ask about my baby, but soon my husband was standing by my side and he tells me that our son is dead. I close my eyes. “What insurance do you have again?”
All these years later and there isn't a lot to remember about Dylan's life and death, but I carry that question around with me inside my head. That question, carried across these decades, fuels me to change the very system that allowed such a thing to happen.
I've long since forgiven my doctor for not being able to protect me from harm and I never

LETTER 15

Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Through RVCP, we aim to educate people about social justice issues and inspire them to create positive change. Published monthly, RVCP is available through subscription, local distribution locations.
Contributions from the community are welcome, including articles, letters to the editor, short poetry, and photography. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. All writing accepted for publication will be edited with due respect for the author's intent. Opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editors.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rebound effect?

BY MIKE BARCUS

Something that the main stream media is completely ignoring on a national level is that Bernie Sanders, a life-long liberal and self-proclaimed “socialist”, is drawing crowds that are more than ten times the size of any crowds being drawn by any other candidate for president, not for special events but for simply showing up to campaign. Tomorrow he will be addressing at least 9000 people in Madison, Wisconsin, who have already RSVP'd to attend and next up will be a crowd of at least 3000 people in Portland, Maine, for a town-hall event. Time after time those who are booking his events have to rush to find a much larger venue when hordes of people respond to the announcement of his event. They planned for 800 in Portland, and then had to move to a hockey arena in order to accommodate 3000.

No other candidate on either side gets anywhere near these kids of numbers coming out to see and hear them. No one.
It would appear that the national media still doesn't take Sanders seriously, even with this extreme show of popularity and genuine interest in what he has to say. I would like to think that the reality is that people are sick and tired of being screwed by this country's rigged political and economic systems and very much like what this genuine “independent” has to say about it. If I'm right, then once again this country's media is being caught with it's pants down and groveling for favors from the “powers that be” (AKA, kissing ass - something Sanders definitely does not do).

I've always like Bernie's take on this country's issues, and I'm watching his campaign with growing fascination (and worry - will he survive??). GO BERNIE!!!

We get your letters...

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSAs, poems, artwork and events.
Send your stories to editor@rvcommunitypress.com, or call the RVCP hotline at 541-622-9483.

Thank You!

Summit

CONTINUED FROM 14

The conference peaks on the second afternoon when attendees will join small Break-out interest groups focusing on one of: Water; Forest Health and Fire; Agriculture; Sustainable Energy; Transportation; Building construction; Recreation and tourism; Human health; Individual action. These groups will identify and develop ideas, and during the coming months, develop plans further. Our goal is to inspire actions that help communities prepare for inevitable regional climate change consequences and reduce our contribution to the problem. Attendees will comprise elected officials, government department staff, professionals, decision-makers, media, students, and the general public. Early bird registration (\$45) covering morning coffee/tea and lunches for the two days ends July 15th after which it rises to \$55; final deadline is September 15th. For updated information for the conference, to be held at Medford's Inn at the Commons visit: <http://socanclimatesummit.info>.

Letter

CONTINUED FROM 2

felt the need to forgive Dylan's pediatrician, the same doctor who spent most of an hour after the birth doing everything he possibly could to restart his heart. In the days after Dylan's death, he stopped by the hospital room and followed up with a long visit where he answered all of our questions and shared our sadness. He was one of the heroes of that night.
As my son's heart was thumping and pumping one of it's very last times, the hospital acquired information about my health insurance coverage. It also became a significant part of the short narrative of Dylan's life and death and an example of the failure of the United States healthcare system. In the middle of life and death decisions, it is morally reprehensible that hospitals-- places of healing-- put profits over people. The system itself is morally bankrupt.
I can't forgive that, but I can work to change it.

Will you join us in this fight?
Kindly,
Vanessa and Jason Houk
For more information on HCAO, visit hcao.org or find us on Facebook at “Health Care for ALL Oregon” and “Health Care for all Oregon- Rogue Valley”.



"Degrowth". An artwork by Sébastien Thibault.

Why some children may be without medical care in an emergency

HB 3517 “Cover All Kids Bill” provides medical assistance to low income children

BY ALEX BUDD

Our communities are stronger when all children get the best possible start in life. In Oregon some low-income children are categorically excluded from medical assistance provided by the Oregon Health Authority. This means that even in the case of a public health emergency the Oregon Health Authority’s hands would be tied by existing law, preventing it from providing any services to approximately 17,600 of the most vulnerable children living in Oregon. In a public health crisis we need to be able to reach low income children with the care they need to be healthy. The exclusions these children face undermine the health of all Oregonians. We know that these children have very limited options to accessing care. Their families tend to be low-income and are likely to work for employers who do not offer family health insurance benefits. That is why Oregon Action is working with partners

at the Oregon Latino Healthcare Coalition and the Oregon Health Equity Alliance to urge the Senate to pass legislation to fix this problem.

HB 3517, the Cover All Kids Bill, will permit the Oregon Health Authority to provide medical assistance to all low income children residing in Oregon, within available funds. This bill creates no new programs and does not cost anything. We have a public health responsibility to ensure and protect the health of every Oregonian and their communities from preventable and serious public health threats.

The benefits of this legislation were recognized by a bipartisan majority in the House when they passed it earlier in the session. The bill is currently referred to the Ways and Means Committee. Please join Oregon Action by supporting this priority. For more information or to get involved, contact Eliza Conchas at Eliza@OregonAction.org or call our Medford office 541-774-4029. Se Habla Espanol.

S.O.C.A.N. organizing Rogue Basin Climate Summit

BY ALAN JOURNET

Everyone loves where they live. We are no exception! The answer to why this area is so beautiful, is revealed in a trip to Grants Pass: “It’s the Climate.” The forests, woodlands, agriculture, wineries, and rivers we enjoy are maintained by our climate.

But the Rogue Basin has been experiencing four decades of troubling climate trends. Data from Medford reveal the city has warmed nearly two degrees Fahrenheit over the last century, with 2014 being four degrees F above the rising trend. We are also experiencing decreasing snowfall, advancing snowmelt, reduction in late summer stream flow and water availability for domestic and agricultural use.

To explore trends and seek remedies, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is organizing a two day fall conference: “Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts & Solutions – A Rogue Basin Summit” for October 13 and 14. It will explore current trends and projections, their consequences, and what we can do to address these issues.

On October 13th Dr. Phil Mote, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at OSU will discuss Pacific Northwest trends and projections and what the consequences might be. This will be followed with exploration of local trends and consequences. That evening, Mary Wood from the University Of Oregon School Of Law will discuss “Our Children’s Trust,” where youth hold governments accountable for protecting natural resources for future generations.

The keynote speaker for October 14th, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy will discuss what Eugene is doing. Then comes discussion of successful current regional efforts.

Counter-rally overwhelms support for “America’s Toughest Sheriff - Joe Arpaio”

BY IVEND HOLEN

Traveling to the capitol in Salem on a steamy Saturday, June 27, to join hundreds of folks attending the Maricopa Counta AZ. Sheriff Joe Arpaio counter-rally were six members of the local social justice group, Oregon Action. The loud and colorful counter-rally, organized by Woodburn-based PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste) and its charismatic leader, Ramon Ramirez, outnumbered the Arpaio crowd by more than 4 to 1.

The Oregon Republican Party sponsored the Sheriff Joe Arpaio event on the capitol steps, naming it: “Sheriff Joe Arpaio, America’s Toughest Sheriff”, with help from the anti-immigrant hate group, “Oregonians for Immigration Reform”. The turnout was somewhat less than they hoped for, a fact that Arpaio referred to in his speech, calling all those missing from the crowd the “forgotten Americans”. These “forgotten” had apparently forgotten to show up for his speech. Two of the three Oregon legislators who had helped to bring Arpaio to Oregon, Rep. Greg Barreto of Pendleton, and Sen. Kim Thatcher of Salem/Keizer put the best face they could on the geriatric group attending the diminished rally, but Medford’s Rep. Sal Esquivel, who was listed as a sponsor, was a no-show. Maybe the heat was a bit too much for him, because the counter-rally across the street was certainly hot, as well



Photo by Steve Vermie.

as loud, and young and colorful.

The heat and humidity was indeed thick on the east side of the street, and though the aged Republican crowd had the benefit of a late afternoon shadow cast by the capitol building, the largely hispanic crowd benefited from soaring fountains of water that dozens of kids screamed in delight as they splashed through them just in back of the slightly older crowd chanting and jeering at “America’s toughest” across the street. The noise was high enough in volume that Sheriff Joe had to turn up the volume on his loudspeaker in order to be heard by his crowd of hearing-aid sporting

supporters.

All in all, the group from the Rogue Valley that attended the Sheriff Joe counter-event, Bev DeLeonardis, Ivend Holen, Ricardo Lujan, Karen Lujan, Rich Rohde, and Steve Vermie, agreed that it was a tremendously uplifting and morale-boosting experience. The spirited and youthful Arpaio counter-demonstration powerfully demonstrates how the hate-filled discriminatory values of much of old Oregon are rapidly giving way to the inclusive, humanistic and caring values of youthful Oregonians of all ages.

I've heard a lot of people talk about the theoretical NUCLEAR WAR-- what if it ever comes?

Well, the NUCLEAR WAR is HERE... That's what that dead Navajo uranium miner is. He's a victim of that war. That's what the stillbirths and miscarriages are on Pine Ridge where the RADIOACTIVITY has reached into the WATER.

-John Trudell

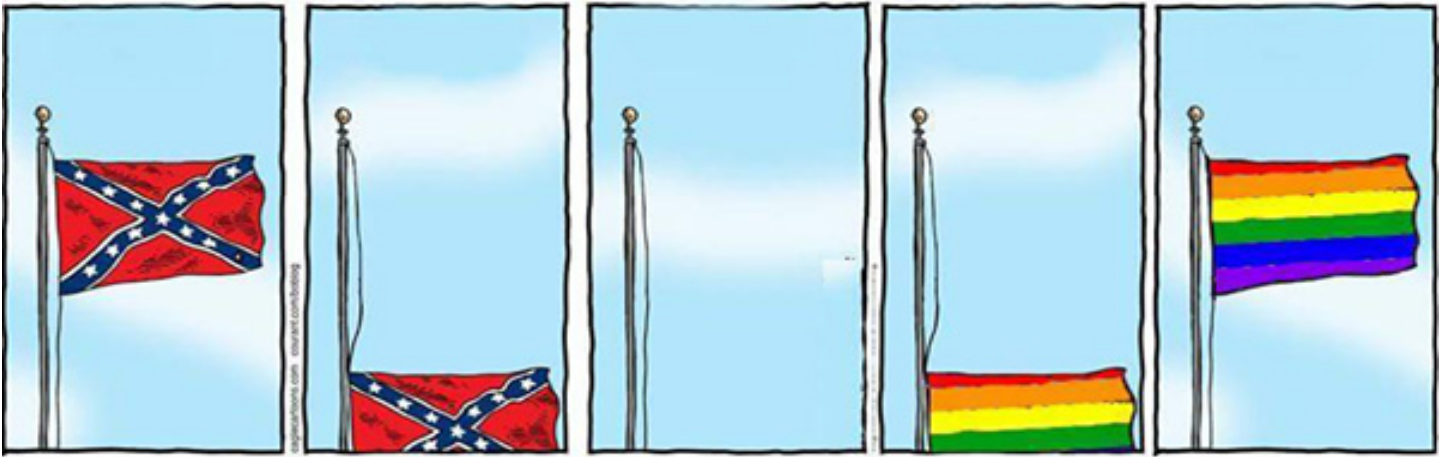
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Social Justice Films are shown the second Tuesday of every Month
Occupy Medford meets every Saturday 10am at the Medford Library

SUMMIT 15



Applause & Hiss

A biotech startup has managed to 3-D print fake rhino horns that carry the same genetic fingerprint as the actual horn. The company plans to flood Chinese rhino horn market at one-eighth of the price of the original, undercutting the price poachers can get and forcing them out eventually.

Supreme Court upholds state redistricting law, saying it is okay for “the voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around”.

Employees at Asante have access to an internal food bank. At first glance that seems a benevolent offering, but we cannot help but wonder why a major southern Oregon employer isn't paying their workers adequate wages.

In a report from Psychology Today,, standing like a superhero for as little as two minutes changes our testosterone and cortisol levels, increases our appetite for risk, causes us to perform better in job interviews, and generally configures our brains to cope well in stressful situations.



People working for profitable corporations should not need the support of food banks. Asante should pay their employees a living wage.

Help local first grade girls get a good start

BY VANESSA HOUK

Southern Oregon Dress a Girl is seeking donations to help 100 low income first graders start school in style. Volunteers have been busy sewing new dresses for each of the girls and the group would like to see that at least 100 girls will all get a fun send off. Donations of other needed items will be collected throughout the month of July.

In August the group will host a tea party at the Medford YMCA (August 8th from 1:00-4:00 PM). The group seeks donations of school supplies, backpacks, hair brushes, hair accessories, new socks and underwear so that along with a new dress, each girl will receive new school supplies and a hygiene kit.

Donations can be dropped off at the bin inside the lobby at the Medford Mail Tribune (111 N. Fir Street, Medford).

Southern Oregon Dress a Girl is also seeking volunteers. Contact Cheryl Olson (541) 661-0349. Southern Oregon Dress a Girl is a registered 501(c)3 and donations are tax deductible.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Climate change is real

BY JOHN ANASTASIO
ASHLAND

Climate change is real. Climate change is happening now and it's time to stop coddling the professional liars and financiers who knowingly spread disinformation in the climate change denial campaign, and prosecute them for treason and involuntary manslaughter. There is a term for their crime - Anthropogenic Ecocide. The geological era we are living in, known as the Anthropocene, is so named because the activities of the human species are influencing the Earth's natural state in a way never seen before.

Already, people are dying of excessive heat and other forms of climate extremes and billions more are suffering, now, as I type. June 2015 was the hottest on record here in Medford, OR, “with previous records being destroyed by 4 degrees Fahrenheit,” said a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Medford. “Considering that only one degree separates the 10th warmest Junes and the 2nd warmest June since 1911, 4 degrees is amazing. Twenty-one days reached 90 degrees or greater, with 5 -100 + days and 6 daily records, including the all-time highest overnight low temperature of 76 degrees.” June topped out at 107 F and the forecast is for another five consecutive days of triple-digit temperatures peaking at 105 degrees for the beginning of July.

May, 2015 was the hottest on record in the United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). “The combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces for May 2015 was the highest for May in the 136-year period of record, at 0.87°C (1.57°F) above the 20th century average of 14.8°C (58.6°F),” said NOAA. This breaks the previous record, which was set in May, 2014. It was also the hottest March to May on record and the hottest January to May on record as well. So, if trends continue, as they are predicted to, this year will surpass last year as the hottest on record. Last year was the hottest on record.

Efforts to curb the greenhouse gases that cause global warming have largely

been doomed in Congress because conservative groups may have spent up to \$1bn a year on the effort to deny science and oppose action on climate change, according to the extensive study into the anatomy of the anti-climate effort by Sociologist Robert Brulle of Drexel University.

“The anti-climate effort has been largely underwritten by conservative billionaires, often working through secretive funding networks. They have displaced corporations as the prime supporters of 91 think tanks, advocacy groups and industry associations which have worked to block action on climate change,” says Brulle. “It is not just a couple of rogue individuals doing this. This is a large-scale political effort.”

We have laws on the books to punish people whose lies contribute to the death of others - it's called involuntary manslaughter. Those people are criminally negligent and so are climate change deniers who knowingly distribute disinformation.

The UK Guardian newspaper reports that “Conservative billionaires used a secretive funding route to channel nearly \$120m (£77m) to more than 100 groups casting doubt about the science behind climate change.”

“The funds, doled out between 2002 and 2010, helped build a vast network of think tanks and activist groups working to a single purpose: to redefine climate change from neutral scientific fact to a highly polarizing “wedge issue” for hard-core conservatives.

“If we fail to stop runaway climate change, it will be largely because of campaigning by oil, coal and electricity companies, and the network of lobbyists, fake experts and think tanks they have sponsored,” says George Monbiot.

Climate change is real. Climate change is happening now and we won't begin to have a chance at stopping it until the industrial capitalists and their minions who are profiting from the burning of fossil fuels are brought up on charges before Nuremberg-like courts.

OSF files legal objection after stagehands vote to join union

The appeal could add months of delay

VIA NW LABOR PRESS



Instead of accepting the results of last month's union vote and starting negotiations on a first contract, Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) has filed legal objections with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

On June 10, a group of 71 stagehands and theater technicians voted 37 to 25 to join International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). The newly unionized group is the “run crew” that runs backstage operations during the nine months of the year plays are showing, but OSF previously argued that the bargaining unit should also include year-round employees who construct sets and make costumes. Those other groups showed less interest in unionizing, so adding them to the proposed bargaining unit could derail the union effort. The NLRB's regional director rejected OSF's arguments, and ruled that the run crew was an appropriate bargaining unit.

On June 25, OSF executive director Cynthia Rider emailed employees saying that she and artistic director Bill Rauch “have decided to exercise OSF's legal right to request a review of the NLRB regional director's decision.”

If the NLRB accepts the request for review, Rider wrote, it could take three to six months for a final decision.

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Rogue Valley Community Press

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Judge says GMO ordinance stands

BY GREGG MARCHESE

Federal Judge Mark Clarke concluded on Friday, May 29th: “The Jackson County Ordinance is valid under the Right to Farm Act, and it is specifically authorized by Oregon law. The motions for partial summary judgment by the County and the intervenors are therefore GRANTED. Plaintiffs’ motion is DENIED.’

Cheers and shouts!

The Judge said essentially 3 things:
1 - The state Right to Farm law does not apply to the county gmo crop ban ordinance, because the ordinance falls within an exception to RTF: “The exception demonstrates that the Right to Farm Act does not give free license to use any farming practices. While farming practices may not be limited by a suburbanite’s sensitivities, they may be limited if they cause damage to another farm’s crops.

“The primary purpose of the Ordinance... is to protect local farmers from “significant economic harm to organic farmers and to other farmers who choose to grow non-genetically engineered crops” that can be caused by “genetic drift” from GE crops... the Court finds that the Ordinance intends to protect against damage to commercial agriculture products, and therefore it falls into the exception to the Right to Farm Act. For this reason, the Ordinance is valid on its face.’

2 - Jackson County had a right to pass a law that prevents harm and damage to farmers. It did not have to wait until actual harm and damage occurred.

‘(Plaintiffs) claim that the Ordinance is invalid because it applies to all GE farming, without requiring... a showing or evidence of actual damage. The Court disagrees. Farmers have always been able to bring claims against other farmers for practices that cause actionable damage to their commercial agriculture products under... the Right to Farm Act. The Ordinance, by contrast... serves to prevent such damage before it happens. There is

nothing in the text or context of the Right to Farm Act to indicate that a showing of actionable damage is necessary before the enactment of an ordinance, and the Court declines to create such a requirement.’

3 - The State Seed Law (pre-emption law passed by the Governor and Legislature in Special Session back in Oct ‘13) gave approval for Jackson County’s ordinance to go forward by granting an exemption. The exemption essentially validates and legalizes Jackson’s ordinance: ‘...the Seed Bill preempts laws precisely like the Ordinance. However, it is equally clear that the legislature meant to carve out a specific exception authorizing Jackson County Ordinance 635.’

Earlier in the ruling, the Judge states: “The legislative history shows that lawmakers specifically intended to allow the Jackson County Ordinance to go forward, even though the purpose of the Seed Bill was to prevent counties and local governments from enacting precisely such laws.’

He then goes on to quote statements from Senator Alan Bates and Rep. Peter Buckley during the regular session, and others at the Special Session including Speaker of the House and the Governor, all affirming Jackson’s exception.

While it is time to celebrate once again, there is still the matter of the second phase of the lawsuit. The plaintiffs, two gmo alfalfa growers, are also seeking a combined total of 4.2 Million dollars in confiscated value, known as a ‘taking’ in legalese. The original lawsuit states: “The (gmo crop ban) Ordinance is a regulatory taking of the (Roundup Ready alfalfa) crops that requires... just compensation to the plaintiffs under the State and Federal Constitutions.’ (5th and 14 amendments). The plaintiffs also claim compensation for legal costs.

Jackson County’s official calendar shows no dates yet scheduled for this phase.

The election victory, and now the lawsuit victory, are events. But historic change

does not ultimately occur due to events. It occurs through long term processes. While these events are significant and ecstatic to many, it is the ongoing process of building the long-term movement that creates real and lasting change. Elections and legal defense are two of about ten aspects of the Movement.

So let us take not an event view, but a process view, of change.

Ever Onward.

The perceptions and any opinions expressed in this report are solely those of the author, an independent community media reporter and citizen journalist, and do not reflect the perceptions and opinions of any person or entity involved in the lawsuit, whether as intervenor, plaintiff or defendant or their attorneys.

It is the intention of the author to share the proceedings in the courtroom as objectively and accurately as possible, with his own personal style, humor, position and slant in a way that is interesting and informative for the community, to continue to build the Movement. Nothing written here represents in any way any of the parties and persons directly involved in the lawsuit on either side.

Defend the win!

To donate to OFFC, go to www.OurFamilyFarmsCoalition.org or send a check to:

Our Family Farms Coalition
221 N. Central Ave., PMB #180
Medford, OR 97501

Donations to OFFC are not tax deductible.

If you prefer to make a tax-deductible contribution, go to www.OurFamilyFarmsCoalition.org, press the Donate button and select the Center for Food Safety option. Your donation will go directly to the Jackson County defense fund managed by Center for Food Safety. Spread the word - Sign up at www.OurFamilyFarmsCoalition.org to get email updates

Social Justice for all?

How to bring a multiplicity of ethnicities to the activist’s table

BY NINA EGERT

A couple of years ago, as I was searching out communities where-in I might happily live out the rest of my days, Ashland impressed me as being artistic, forward thinking, and diverse. Looking in from the outside, I saw Mexican and Indian restaurants, Japanese produce markets, Native-American festivals, Tibetan temples, and Jewish synagogues tucked in between businesses and houses of worship that might serve a typically European-American, Protestant community. Black and Hispanic faces appeared in the photos on OSF’s website of promoting its seasonal productions. Organizations included a broad spectrum of interests which--elsewhere on the planet--would draw a diverse membership: a blues society, an international women’s league, yoga and meditation classes, a Zen tea house, etc. While this was admittedly not as ethnically diverse as some areas where I had previously lived, I felt confident that Ashland was an inclusive community.

How surprised was I, then, to attend activity after activity—especially those directed towards social justice—only to find myself enveloped by a sea of white faces. Apparently, fifty years after the civil rights movement’s efforts to do away with segregation in the South, Ashland and greater Jackson County are “tolerant”—as long as people stay within their own ethnic/religious ghettos. (The word “ghetto” here being used in its original, pejorative sense—not its more recent “hip” sense.) In other words, there is a stark gap between the ways in which Jackson County is promoted to tourists and potential residents, and actual reality.

Perhaps the most troubling fact of all is that many of the people with whom I discuss this topic are not disturbed by the situation. I am offered excuse upon excuse—more discourse than I have room for in this short article.

Most certainly, however, the one area that screams out for ethnic inclusiveness is the social justice movement. How can an organization make claims of pushing for legal and political action in

the name of the betterment of humanity, if a broad cross-section of humanity is not a part of the discourse?

I am only one small person, but please let me suggest to all activist groups (not to mention artistic groups) that if you make or watch a political film or if you sit down to a public or private meeting, and everyone in the room is roughly the same age group, racial group, religious group—or merely a slight variation there-of—something is grievously missing. Whether this is a matter of the group’s lack of awareness of the issue or actual and malicious intent is for each group to answer. But at the very least, please realize that no political organization can accurately lay claim to acting for social justice under those circumstances. Any actions, any decisions made by a racially or religiously limited association—even if made by smart people with the best of intentions—cannot possibly be representative of the greater constituency one is claiming to serve. Period.

Assuming the group’s intent is not consciously malicious, but genuinely altruistic in nature, how does a group begin to repair this deficit? Certainly the first step is having everyone at the table acknowledge the elephant in the room, and then query participants as to ideas they might have as to how to reach out to any missing ethnic or religious groups. If most participants at the table don’t even know people of other religions and ethnic groups—clearly some rudimentary preliminary soul searching needs to take place, before members are truly ready to participate in greater social justice movements.

However, here are a few practical steps social activist groups might take to help identify ethnic groups absent from the table, so that they might reach out to them:
1. Your group might do well to realize that part of the problem—from their side—might be an intimidation factor: not feeling welcome by the dominant ethnicity, overtly or covertly. Your group may need to being willing to adapt unspoken codes of social interaction to allow for a broader response.

2. Google is your group’s best friend—identify locations of restaurants, businesses,

houses of worship, then google the ethnicity under consideration; most likely there will be a social support organization or publication that can serve as a lead-in to the community.

3. Check universities and community colleges rosters for campus organizations, and reach out to them; connecting with the college community could serve as an entre into the wider ethnic community.
4. Have members of your group go out and actively participate in public activities sponsored by ethnic groups—whether tabling or merely having fun as a means of letting people within that group know that your caring is genuine; then ask people with whom you have bonded to join your group.

That said, there is no reassurance that people from within ethnic enclaves will

1. Be trustful, and therefore responsive to outreach attempts from your organization;

2. Agree with the basic premise of your groups political assertions;

3. Not have their own racist/religious prejudices in place, motivating them to reject overtures of inclusion.

Putting on my scholar’s hat momentarily, while Jackson County apparently has a long and sad history of white racism—stemming back to hosting a chapter of the Klu Klux Klan in the early 20th century—many other cultures, among them some of the ones listed above, have their own histories of violent racist/religious prejudices. Mexico was settled by Spaniards who set up a caste system based upon racial

JUSTICE 6

What’s on your mind?

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSA’s, poems, artwork and events.
Send your stories to editor@rvcommunitypress.com, or call the RVCP hotline at 541-622-9483.

Thank You!

400 million fewer animals were killed last year because people are eating less meat

BY HANNAH SENTENAC
FOR LATESTVEGANNEWS.COM

Where there's less consensus, however, is how to affect change. While many vegans believe Meatless Mondays and other cutting-back-consumption campaigns don't push enough of a paradigm-shift, others argue that these are crucial first steps towards a more compassionate world.

Given that around 93 percent of people still eat meat, it's difficult to imagine that everyone will cease doing so anytime soon. A world that eats far fewer meat, however, is already on the way. Meat consumption has been steadily declining in the U.S.—by 10% per capita since 2007, in fact.

In that year, for example, the U.S. raised and killed 9.5 billion land animals for food. As of 2014, that number plummeted by a whopping 400 million, says Paul Shapiro, Vice President, Farm Animal Protection for The Humane Society of the United States. "What that means is that compared to 2007, last year almost half a billion fewer animals were subjected to the torment of factory farming and industrial slaughter plants—and that's despite the increase in the U.S. population," Shapiro explains.

Justice

CONTINUED FROM 5

background: pure Europeans in the top caste, with mixed race and indigenous peoples assigned lower rank. Japan is well-known for problems with racial prejudice against other Asian nationalities, as well as its own Japanese citizens of mixed nationality. Similarly, the people of China are constantly mitigating prejudicial attitudes between the Han majority and more than fifty "national minorities." Even the Tibetans, who most recently have garnered public sympathy as the victims of Chinese territorial aggression in the mid-20th century, in fact have a long and bloody history of intra-Buddhist sectarian violence. Not to mention existent schisms within the Jewish community over both religious and political issues. There is no promise that prejudicial attitudes might not come into play as European-American political groups reach out to non-European minorities in Jackson County.

In other words, while there are real and present economic issues with which Americans as a whole need to be concerned, and cry for activist movements to impede corporate greed, etc., I question how effective social justice activism can be until all groups concerned have processed their own racial and religious prejudices. We can start by voting in local officials from a broader spectrum of ethnicities, and by at least reaching out to others, opening up the conversation that might, in time, lead to genuine inclusiveness.

Fast Track for the TPP passes Senate

VIA OREGON FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN

Last month we saw a major attack on workers, the environment and democracy itself with the Senate's decision to move forward with Fast Track. If just one other Senator would have decided to listen to their constituents and oppose Fast Track instead of siding with corporate lobbyists, we would have boxed and buried Fast Track. But Republicans and the White House were able to make enough sweetheart deals that cloture for Fast Track passed with a single vote, 60-37.

Shamefully, Senator Ron Wyden broke his promise to Oregonians that he would fight for transparency in trade negotiations. He said that people deserve to know what is being negotiated in real time. This promise should have stopped him from voting for Fast Track, and his one vote could have prevented its passage. Fast Track for the Trans-Pacific

Partnership (TPP) means endorsing a back-room trade negotiating process by which hundreds of corporate lobbyists get access to trade texts and trade negotiators, while the public is shut out from even knowing what's being proposed in our names until after the negotiations are completed and changes are all but impossible.

Fast Track was a tough loss. But we've seen enormous victories along the way. We defeated the Camp-Baucus fast track bill last year, and stopped the original Ryan-Hatch-Wyden bill in the House just a few weeks ago. Here in Oregon, our work delayed the vote for a year and a half!

We have a lot to be proud of. Our struggle against Fast Track built a movement. Allies from labor, environmental, immigrant rights, and access to medicines groups came together on a common front. We united against the largest, most powerful corporate interests in the world, and we came so close.

It's a true testament to your good work and will lay the foundation for the next episode in the battle for people over profits!

Next is stopping the TPP itself. The clock is ticking on the TPP. There may not be enough time left in Obama's presidency to introduce the trade deal, and it has little to no chance of moving forward during the 2016 Presidential election. We have built tremendous momentum in this fight, and if we keep it up, victory is within reach.

Thank you for all your incredible work. Please take a moment to thank Sen. Merkley and Rep. DeFazio for standing up for Oregon values by opposing Fast Track for the TPP. Don't forget to send a message to Sen. Wyden and Reps. Blumenauer, Bonamici, and Schrader for walking away from workers and the environment by voting for it.



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Among House Democrats supporting Fast Track, 24 of 28 received money from drug and medical device PACs

BY JAMES LOVE

I spent a bit of time to look at the contributions from selected drug and medical device Political Action Committees (PACs) to the 28 House Democrats who voted for fast track on June 18, 2015. I looked at PACs from 7 US companies (Pfizer, Amgen, Merck, Lilly, J&J and BMS), 7 foreign companies (AstraZeneca, Sanofi, GSK, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, Genetech/Roche and Bayer), 3 medical device companies (Boston Scientific, Medtronic and Becton Dickinson), and three trade associations (PhRMA, BIO and AdvaMed), using the 2014 cycle data, as reported on OpenSecrets.Org. Of the 28 Fast Track democrats in the House, 24 received money from these 20 PACs. Leading the way were Ron Kind

(D-WI-03), who received contributions from 20 of the 20 PACs, Scott Peters (D-CA-52), who received money from 17 of the 19 PACs, and Kurt Schrader (D-OR-05), who received money from 15 of the 20 PACs.

Among the four Democrats supporting Fast Track that received nothing from the 20 drug and medical device PACs were Jim Costa (D-CA-16), Brad Ashford (D-NE-02), Jim Cooper (D-TN-05) and Beto O'Rourke (D-TX-16).

The amount of money reported by the PACs turns out to be only a fraction of the money a candidate receives from the drug companies, as much of the money is actually donated through lobbyists and by bundling contributions, but it does provide a useful data point that is highly correlated to the overall industry support.

AEFB is missing shopping carts

Ashland Emergency Food Bank is suddenly suffering from a severe shortage of shopping carts! Many years ago the good folks at Ashland's Own Shop N Kart gave AEFB a batch of their old orange carts, when they upgraded. Then they donated some of their old green plastic carts, when they upgraded those. Now these carts, much needed for shoppers and food drives, are disappearing.

If you see an abandoned orange or green old-style Shop N Kart shopping cart on the side of the road, could you give them a call please!

The food bank is at 560 Clover Lane, in Ashland and can be phoned at 541-488-9544



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NSA given go-ahead to resume collecting phone data records

BY M. ALEX JOHNSON

The National Security Agency may have been ordered out of the phone records business, but a secret court has said it can go ahead anyway.

In a decision published Tuesday, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, known as the FISA court, ruled Monday night that the NSA can resume bulk phone data collection for at least five more months.

“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose” — “the more things change, the more they stay the same” — FISA Judge Michael Mosman wrote in saying a federal appeals court ruling rejecting a libertarian activist group’s motion to end the program immediately because of a separate court’s ruling.

The law allowing the NSA to Hoover up

millions of Americans’ metadata — broad records of who called whom when and for how long — expired June 1. Congress gave the government 180 days to make the transition, during which it could continue to collect the data.

But while that change was working its way through Congress, a federal appeals court ruled that the entire surveillance program was illegal — and it issued an injunction ordering the NSA to stop immediately.

Mosman ruled Monday that the appeals court ruling didn’t apply to his court — and that the appeals court was wrong, anyway, saying its “analysis rests on mischaracterizations of how this program works.”

That means the NSA can resume collecting the records for the remaining

five months of the transition period — unless another court steps in.

“Neither the statute nor the Constitution permits the government to subject millions of innocent people to this kind of intrusive surveillance,” Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement. “We intend to ask the court to prohibit the surveillance and to order the NSA to purge the records it’s already collected.”

And Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, a member of the Intelligence Committee, slammed the FISA court, saying in a statement: “I see no reason for the Executive Branch to restart bulk collection, even for a few months. This illegal dragnet surveillance violated Americans’ rights for fourteen years without making our country any safer.”

West Medford group cleans up neighborhood

BY VANESSA HOUK

Volunteers from the West Side Beautification have been cleaning up west Medford. A few moms connected through social media and the group expressed a desire to live in a cleaner and nicer neighborhood. They began taking walks together, children in tow, picking up litter as they went. Other neighbors began to notice what they were doing and wanted to help and the group has grown extensively.

This is grassroots organizing at its best and it’s been so much fun to watch the results. Teams of people respond to issues such as tagging and graffiti, litter patrol, while neighbors help other neighbors with lawn care (especially for elderly and handicapped people) and the group has hosted regular cleanups of Union Park.

Friendships have formed. Folks are getting to know each other and the results have been impressive. The group has formed a 501 (C) (3) and is seeking monetary donations of any amount to help with the costs of insurance. <http://www.gofundme.com/westsidebeauty>

Sewing event to support 1st graders

Southern Oregon Dress a Girl is hosting a sewing event and making dresses on Saturday July 11th at Carefree Mobile Home Park 3848 S. Pacific Ave in Phoenix in the small club house from 1:00-4:00 PM.

For more information, contact Cheryl Olson (541) 661-0349. Southern Oregon Dress a Girl is a registered 501(c)3 and donations are tax deductible.



West Medford residents organize to keep neighborhoods clean. Photo by Colby Damon Olsen

Planned Parenthood internship

Six-month internship in Jackson County

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is now offering a six-month organizing internship in Jackson County. The position description is attached and is also posted on their website at: choiceadvocates.org/jobs.html

The internship is unpaid but will offer interns a small stipend. Anyone who is interested can contact Field Organizer, Kerry Edinger, with any questions to: kerry.edinger@ppaoregon.org

Community Conversations: Transportation

Please come and share your thoughts about the challenges of the current transportation systems in Jackson County, and your ideas about improving it.

Thursday, August 6 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave., Medford Oregon.

The topic is transportation present and future: access, transit, infrastructure.

RSVP tojccommunityconversations@gmail.com by August 4, 2015.

Jackson County Cultural Grants

The Jackson County Cultural Coalition is now accepting grant applications from 501(c)(3) non-profits and non-profits with 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsors for cultural projects beginning after January 1, 2016, and completed no later than December 31, 2016. The JCCC typically awards grants between \$750 and \$2,000 for projects and programs that support and promote the arts, heritage and humanities for all residents of Jackson County.

A grant application can be downloaded at <http://jacksoncountyculturalcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2016-JC-CC-Grant-Application.pdf>.

For additional information contact 541-245-3650 or e-mail info@jacksoncountyculturalcoalition.org.

Support net neutrality

Better dust off that 14.4kbps modem. Big Cable is lining up to roll back net neutrality – meaning higher costs and slower speed.

We just won a major victory with the FCC, and we can’t go back now. Sign the petition and help us hold the line for net neutrality. <http://www.standtallforamerica.com/petition/stand-up-for-net-neutrality/>

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and PIE eating - 6:30pm

Medford Library
Press Conference outside
Party and Forum inside



Groups seeking \$15 minimum wage submit first round of signatures for 2016 ballot

BY IAN K. KULLGREN

Labor groups pushing for a \$15 minimum wage submitted 2,000 petition signatures for a ballot measure Tuesday, teeing up a fight for the 2016 elections.

The move came a day after House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, said it's unlikely the Legislature will take up her proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$13 before adjourning for the year. Speaking on the front steps of the Capitol, labor groups blamed powerful business interests for blocking that bill and others.

"Even though they killed the bill, they cannot kill this process," said Kristi Wright, the statewide organizing director for \$15 Now Oregon.

The group's proposed ballot measure would raise the statewide minimum to \$11.50 in 2017, to \$13.25 in 2018 and finally to \$15 in 2019.

Democrats introduced more than a dozen proposals at the start of the session to increase wages to between \$10 and \$15,

but none had enough support to make it out of committee. Lawmakers still could revisit the proposals in the monthlong session starting in February 2016.

Kotek's proposal would have repealed a pre-emption on local wage raises approved in 2001, clearing the way for Portland and other cities to pass greater increases.

Seattle and Los Angeles recently approved \$15 minimums, but the concept has never been tested on a statewide level. Oregon has the second-highest statewide minimum wage at \$9.25 an hour, behind Washington's \$9.47.

Kotek said Monday that she thinks a ballot measure would pass.

"I think there's a high likelihood that if it goes to the ballot, Oregonians will vote for a higher minimum wage," Kotek said.

The groups must gather 88,184 signatures by July 2016 to get their proposal on the November 2016 ballot.



Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. As veterans, we draw on our personal experiences and perspectives to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives. Our members have served our country in all branches of the military. We hold meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM - details at our website: <http://rv-vfp156.org/>

We participate in local peace stands in public places, hold rallies, and march in the Grants Pass Boatnik and Ashland Fourth of July parades. Our local organization was formed in 2008 and serves Jackson and Josephine Counties in southern Oregon. We regularly join forces with other peace and social justice groups throughout the Rogue Valley and the country.

The national Veterans for Peace organization was formed in 1985, maintains offices in St. Louis, Missouri, and is opposed to all wars.

We are a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization. For more information contact our president, Allen Hallmark, at hallmark3843@gmail.com.

Legislature approves 'End Profiling' legislation, sends bill to Governor

HB2002 brings together law enforcement and communities around data collection, improved reporting, increased accountability

BY RICARDO LUJAN

The Oregon Senate approved legislation Wednesday to ban the practice of profiling as a law enforcement tactic with a vote of 28 to 1. HB 2002 will now head to Governor Kate Brown's desk for her signature.

HB 2002 has received bipartisan support in both chambers of the Oregon legislature and has the backing of the Center for Intercultural Organizing, the NAACP, Basic Rights Oregon, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, and the Oregon Sheriff's Association.

"Profiling corrodes the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve," said House Speaker Tina Kotek. "To eliminate profiling, we need to face it head on, recognize it and provide the means to report and address the problem when it occurs."

"We need this law to protect the credibility of the policing function, because it is vital to our functioning civic life," according to Chief Sponsor Representative Lew Frederick. "When people avoid calling the police because they fear them, the breakdown of civic order is almost as scary as the gun I faced during a nonsensical traffic stop. Imagine your reaction if you were pulled over in your car, or stopped while walking, for no discernible reason. Then imagine that it happens again and again. If you can imagine that, you've imagined a piece of our world. Profiling degrades the quality of our everyday lives. It needs to be illegal. It needs to stop."

Currently in Oregon, each law enforcement agency is left to decide their own definition and process on profiling. Profiling occurs in every part of the state and impacts many different communities, and until now there has been no coordinated state policy to address it.

"The bottom line: profiling doesn't make our communities safer," said Senator Alan Bates. "By defining, tracking, and

addressing profiling when it occurs, we can protect the freedoms of Oregonians while supporting our law enforcement community."

HB 2002 defines profiling and clearly bans law enforcement from using profiling as a tactic in Oregon. The bill also requires law enforcement agencies to collect complaint data about profiling and establishes a process for accepting and addressing profiling complaints.

"Profiling occurs daily in many forms across Oregon, making those who are targeted by police often feel like prisoners in their own communities," said Kayse Jama, Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing. "By defining profiling and establishing a consistent process for recording complaints, we can help build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This legislation is an important step toward ending a systemic problem, but it does not mean our work is done. Actual change has to be felt on the ground."

"To believe that there is no profiling within our state is to ignore the daily struggles that our minority communities go through because of profiling," said Ricardo Lujan, Board Member for Oregon Action. "I encourage everyone to challenge themselves and become more aware of this issue and how it affects our neighbors. It is important for Oregon to make a change so that our neighbors, friends and families can feel safer."

In addition, the bill would also create the Law Enforcement Profiling Work Group, a new entity tasked with proposing a process to identify patterns or practices of profiling, identifying methods to address and correct these practices and biased policies, and preparing a report identifying any additional statutory changes that are needed to achieve these goals.

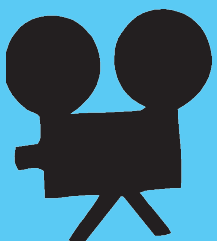
"Profiling has no place in professional policing - it is discriminatory and ineffective," said Kevin Campbell, Executive Director of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. "Law enforcement leaders here in Oregon continue to work to ensure that we have the most professional and just policing culture in the nation, to take reports of profiling seriously and to take action to make our communities safer. We're supporting HB 2002 because we recognize that strong partnerships, better data, and additional options for citizens to file concerns and complaints all help law enforcement officers do their jobs."

About Fair Shot for All

Fair Shot For All is a broad coalition of community and labor groups that have joined together to push for real policy solutions that address economic inequality and give a better future for all Oregonians. This includes Family Forward Oregon, SEIU, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, CAUSA, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Oregon Education Association, PCUN, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Rural Organizing Project, UFCW, and the Urban League of Portland, Oregon.

Our priorities are at the center of the economic debate happening both in Oregon, throughout our local communities and on a national stage. Together, we are mobilizing Oregonians and giving a voice to those who need a fair shot.

Occupy Medford will show *Crying Earth Riseup!* A documentary that shows human and environment impact of current uranium mining. July 14, 7 PM Medford Library





Community Radio

WEDNESDAY MORNING'S LIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Brain Labor Report Southern Oregon's Labor Radio Program. Daily news and guests. Wednesdays, 9-10 am	The Green Show Show Live visits and sneak previews of performances presenting on the Green Show Stage. Wednesdays, 10-11 am	News, View and Interviews Get the latest on what's happening in the valley and beyond with Rob Engorn. Wednesdays from 11-12
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